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The taste of New England
with Caribbean flair



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ACLU sues over Arizona law limiting filming of police



Phoenix Police stand in front of police headquarters on May 30, 2020, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

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AP-NORC poll: Most in U.S. say they want stricter gun laws

By SARA BURNETT
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Most U.S. adults want to see gun laws made stricter and think gun violence is increasing nationwide, according to a new poll that finds broad public support for a variety of gun restrictions, including many that are supported by majorities of Republicans and gun owners. The poll by the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows 71% of Americans say gun laws should be stricter, including about half of Republicans, the vast majority of Democrats and a majority of those in gun-owning households.

The poll was conducted between July 28 and Aug. 1, after a string of deadly mass shootings — from a New York grocery store to a school in Texas and a July 4 parade in Illinois — and a 2020 spike in gun killings that have increased attention on the issue of gun violence. Overall, 8 in 10 Americans perceive that gun violence is increasing around the country, and about two-thirds say it's increasing in their state, though less than half believe it's increasing in their community, the poll shows. The question of how to prevent such violence has long divided politicians and



In this July 20, 2014 photo, with guns displayed for sale behind her, a gun store employee helps a customer at Dragonman's, east of Colorado Springs, Colo. Two gun rights organizations filed federal court lawsuits on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022 challenging bans on semi-automatic weapons and magazine ammunition restrictions adopted by two Colorado cities after the state allowed local municipalities to enact tougher gun control measures than called for by state law.

Associated Press

many voters, making it difficult to change gun laws. In June, a conservative majority on the Supreme Court expanded gun rights, finding a constitutional right to carry firearms in public for self-defense.

Later that same month, President Joe Biden signed a bipartisan gun safety bill. The package, approved in the wake of shootings like the one that killed 19 children and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas, was both a measured compromise and the most significant bill

addressing gun violence to be approved in Congress in decades — an indication of how intractable the issue has become.

The poll finds that majorities of U.S. adults view both reducing gun violence and protecting gun ownership as important issues.

Nicole Whitelaw, 29, is a Democrat and gun owner who grew up hunting and target shooting in upstate New York with her strongly Republican family. Whitelaw, who now lives along Florida's Gulf Coast,

supports some gun restrictions, such as prohibiting people convicted of domestic violence from owning firearms and a federal law preventing mentally ill people from purchasing guns.

She said other restrictions — such as banning sales of AR-15 rifles — are "going too far" and may not solve the problem. Whitelaw pointed to the the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many people bought up all the toilet paper they could find.

"I think people would start trying to hoard guns," she said, adding that a better approach is to make smaller changes and see what impact they have.

The poll shows bipartisan majorities of Americans support a nationwide background check policy for all gun sales, a law preventing mentally ill people from purchasing guns, allowing courts to temporarily prevent people who are considered a danger to themselves or others from purchasing a gun, making 21 the minimum age to buy a gun nationwide and banning those who have been convicted of domestic violence from purchasing a gun.

A smaller majority of Americans — 59% — favor a ban on the sale of AR-15 rifles and similar semiautomatic weapons, with Democrats more likely to support that policy than Republicans, 83% vs. 35%.

Chris Boylan, 47, from Indianapolis, opposes restrictions on guns. As a teacher for many years, Boylan said he has "buried more kids than I care to count" and believes gun violence is a major problem. But the Republican, who said he leans more toward Libertarian in his personal stances, believes the issue is more about mental health and a too-lenient criminal justice system. □



Office of Management and Budget director Shalanda Young, second from left, speaks during a briefing at the White House in Washington, May 16, 2022.

Associated Press

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is fore-

casting that this year's budget deficit will be nearly \$400 billion lower than it estimated back in March,

Biden administration forecasts \$1.03T deficit, down \$400B

due in part to stronger than expected revenues, reduced spending, and an economy that has recovered all of the jobs lost during the multi-year pandemic. In full, this year's deficit will decline by \$1.7 trillion, representing the single largest decline in the federal deficit in American history, the Office of Management and Budget says.

Despite the gains, the administration said Tuesday that it is forecasting a deficit of \$1.03 trillion for the budget year that ends Sept. 30. That number sig-

nifies a movement away from the record deficit in 2020, which reached \$3.13 trillion.

The administration's Mid-Session Review said much of the improvement in the deficit forecast for this year stemmed from the economy "transitioning from a historic and rapid recovery to stable and steady growth." The administration sees inflation pressures remaining into 2023, however.

"The President's top economic priority continues to be tackling the challenge of inflation, without giving

up the historic economic gains we've made over the past 18 months," said Shalanda Young, director of the Office of Management and Budget in a statement. "While costs are still too high for too many families, the President's economic plan is working and we're on the right track," she said.

Because the projections of the Mid-Session Review were finalized in June, it does not include the \$280 billion CHIPS and Science Act and estimated \$740 billion climate, healthcare and tax measure. □

ACLU sues over Arizona law limiting filming of police

By **TERRY TANG**
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A controversial Arizona law restricting how the public can film police faced its first legal challenge Tuesday with a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union. The group's Arizona chapter, joined by several Arizona news organizations, filed a petition in U.S. District Court. They argue the law criminalizes First Amendment freedoms.

"This law is a violation of a vital constitutional right and will severely thwart attempts to build police accountability. It must be struck down before it creates irreparable community harm," the ACLU wrote in a statement on its blog.

In the complaint, the group contends the law not only has "blatant constitutional issues" but is too ambiguous in some parts. They are seeking an injunction barring law enforcement and others from enforcing the law. Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich, Maricopa County Attorney General Rachel Mitchell and Maricopa County Sheriff Paul Penzone are all named as defendants.

Brittini Thomason, a spokesperson for Brnovich's office, declined to comment since the office had not received a copy of the complaint. The Maricopa County Attorney's Office does not comment on pending litigation, spokesperson Jen-



Phoenix Police stand in front of police headquarters on May 30, 2020, in Phoenix, waiting for protesters marching to protest the death of George Floyd.

Associated Press

nifer Liewer said. Penzone's office did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Bystander cellphone videos are largely credited with revealing police misconduct — such as with the 2020 death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis officers — and reshaping the conversation around police transparency. But some Arizona lawmakers say legislation is needed to limit people with cameras who deliberately impede officers.

The law, signed by Republican Gov. Doug Ducey in July, makes it illegal to knowingly film police officers 8 feet (2.5 meters) or

closer without an officer's permission. An officer can order someone to stop filming even if they are on private property recording with the owner's consent if an officer finds they're interfering or deems the area unsafe.

The penalty is a misdemeanor that would likely incur a fine without jail time. It was crafted by Republican state Rep. John Kavanaugh, a former police officer, who argued officers need to be able to do their job without interference. The law still allows people to record police activity from a safe distance, he said. The original legislation was amended so it applies to

certain types of police actions, including questioning of suspects and encounters involving mental or behavioral health issues.

People who are the direct subject of police interaction are also exempted. They can film as long as they're not being arrested or searched. Someone in a car stopped by police or being questioned can also film the encounter. Kavanaugh said these changes were made with input from the ACLU.

In similar cases, six of the nation's dozen U.S. appeals courts have ruled on the side of allowing people to record police without restriction. Less than a week

after the Arizona law took effect, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver ruled that a YouTube journalist and blogger's lawsuit against a suburban Denver police department could move forward. The blogger claimed an officer blocked him from recording a 2019 traffic stop.

The Phoenix Police Department, which oversees the nation's fifth-largest city, has been criticized in recent years for its use of force, which disproportionately affects Black and Native American residents.

Reporters and photographers say this law will make it nearly impossible to do their job, especially at massive events like protests. The outlets that are also plaintiffs in the suit include Phoenix Newspapers Inc.; Gray Television; Scripps Media; KPNX-TV; Fox Television Stations; NBCUniversal Media; Arizona Broadcasters Association; States Newsroom; Arizona Newspapers Association; and the National Press Photographers Association.

"We fear that, rather than acting as a shield to ensure 'officer safety,' this law will serve as a sword to abridge the 'clearly established' First Amendment right to video record police officers performing their official duties in public," Mickey H. Osterreicher, general counsel for the National Press Photographers Association, said in a statement. □

New Orleans short-term rental rule struck down by court



Short term rental property owners protest outside City Hall in New Orleans, Jan. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

By **KEVIN MCGILL**
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A New Orleans law restrict-

ing licenses for short-term Airbnb-style rentals to city residents unconstitutionally blocks out-of-state property owners from the vacation rental market in the popular tourist destination, a federal appeals court has ruled.

The 2019 ordinance was adopted by the New Orleans City Council in hopes of slowing the spread of "whole-home" vacation rentals, amid complaints that the rentals were driving up property costs and tax assessments, that full-time residents were leaving

historic neighborhoods and that vacationers' all-night parties and noise were often pushing the limits of New Orleans' reputation for revelry. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Monday that the provision unconstitutionally restricts interstate commerce.

The three-judge panel unanimously overturned the decision of a lower court judge who upheld the law — despite agreeing that it restricted interstate commerce — because he said "the burden it imposed was not 'clearly

excessive in relation to the putative local benefits.'"

But the appeals court judges said the city must look at alternatives that don't eliminate out-of-state property owners, such as higher taxes on short-term rentals, limits on the number of licenses issued in a given area or requirements that short-term rental owners hire an operator to stay on the property overnight "thus acting as the 'adult supervision' that the City ostensibly hopes live-in owners will provide," Judge Jerry Smith wrote for the panel. □

Cuban government starts selling dollars -- with limits

By ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cubans lined up by the dozens at exchange houses on Tuesday for the chance to buy dollars and other hard currency from the government for the first time in two years. The new policy announced Monday night comes almost three weeks after the communist government began buying hard currency from the public at 110.40 pesos per dollar a rate similar to that of the black market and more than four times the rate used for official transactions.

Under the new policy, meant to help combat the illegal market in hard currency, individuals can buy up to \$100 in cash a day at a rate of 123.60 to the dollar in 37 designated state CADECA exchange shops. The official rate used by government industries and agencies that dominate the economy remains 24 pesos to the dollar.

"I want (euros) to be able to buy snacks for my grandchildren," said Maricela Prado, a 62-year-old state worker who was among the first in line at an exchange house in central Havana. Jam is one of myriad prod-



A worker shows a wad of Cuban pesos in Havana, Cuba, Dec. 11, 2020.

Associated Press

ucts hard to find at subsidized state stores.

But 32-year-old camera operator Juan Pérez was dissatisfied with the new measure, arguing the limits on sales would just increase the price of dollars on the black market.

At the start of 2021, Cuba eliminated a longstanding dual currency system, dropping a special type of convertible peso supposedly aimed largely at tourism and foreigners and changing all operations into local currency.

But prices rose much faster than the new higher wages adopted under the reform, which coincided with an economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and reduced support from Cuba's ally Venezuela, which was also struggling, as well as continuing U.S. sanctions that had limited money sent to Cubans by relatives in the U.S.

Growing shortages led to increasing prices for goods bought from private sellers and to a street-level devaluation of the peso, mak-

ing dollars and other hard currency sent or brought in from abroad more valuable. That led to long lines and growing public frustration.

The low, fixed official rate meant people avoided exchanging money through the government, starving it even further of hard currency and its ability to import needed products.

Cubans can use special hard currency debit cards to buy goods at specialized state stores and many also seek dollars or euros in

order to travel abroad — sometimes buying goods to sell at a profit when they return home.

Officials said Monday that under the new policy, sales of hard currency will be limited not only by the \$100 cap but also by how much the local exchange house had purchased from the public the day before.

At the branch visited by The Associated Press, regional CADECA director Kenia Katiuska Mesa told gathered customers that 190 people would be allowed to purchase there on Tuesday.

Economist Mauricio de Miranda said on his Facebook page that the new measures are "insufficient and partial and instead of leading to a solution of the economic problems, widen the grave crisis which has now lasted more than three decades."

A Cuba specialist at the Javeriana University in Cali, Colombia, he said that without "a program of structural reforms, integral and systematic, they will not manage to overcome the current internal obstacles that impede the economic development of Cuba." □

Dutch government under fire in debate over emissions cuts

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said Tuesday that members of his Cabinet have enough

confidence in each other to keep working together as lawmakers broke into their summer vacations to debate the government's contentious plans to slash nitrogen emissions that

have sparked angry protests by farmers.

The debate was called after Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra said in a newspaper interview that the goal of reducing emissions by 50% by 2030 wasn't set in stone. Hoekstra's Christian Democrats party, which traditionally wins votes among farmers and in rural communities, has been losing support in polls since the government published its nitrogen targets. Hoekstra's comments caused tensions among members of Prime Minister Mark Rutte's four-party ruling Cabinet and led to lawmakers backing a call for a debate that will be the first major test of unity since the coalition took office in January after the country's longest-ever government formation nego-

tiations. Rutte conceded that Hoekstra's interview "caused friction with" the government's plans, but he added: "My conviction is that all members of the Cabinet have enough confidence in one another to continue working together."

He said the government was awaiting the outcome of a series of discussions between a mediator and ministers, representatives of the agriculture industry and environmentalists that are intended to ease tensions in the heated public debate. Lawmaker Geert Wilders, whose Party for Freedom is the largest opposition group in parliament and who called for the debate, also used it to criticize the government for not doing enough to tackle a cost-

of-living crisis that is hitting the Netherlands and many other European nations amid soaring energy costs and inflation.

"This Cabinet is totally detached from reality," Wilders said as the debate began. He said he would file a motion of no confidence in the government later in the debate, which was expected to last into the evening.

The leader of the centrist D66 party, Sigrid Kaag, did not attend the debate because she was ill.

Her party has pushed hard for the emission reduction targets and Dutch media reported that she said during a Cabinet meeting that she had lost confidence in Hoekstra after his interview. Rutte declined to comment on the reports. □



Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte talks with the press after an extraordinary meeting of EU leaders to discuss Ukraine, energy and food security at the Europa building in Brussels, Monday, May 30, 2022.

Associated Press

Mozambique's jihadi rebels launch new offensive in north

By **ALEXANDRE NHAMPOSA** and **TOM GOULD**
Associated Press

MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP)

— A new offensive by Mozambique's Islamic extremist rebels in the embattled northern province of Cabo Delgado has increased the number of displaced by 80,000 and undermines the government's claims of containing the insurgency. The rebels have expanded their area in a campaign that has lasted for more than two months. The new offensive, which started in June, follows a period of relative calm when the commander-general of Mozambique's national police had declared that "the war against terrorism is almost at an end."

That claim proved to be hollow as the fighters have struck further south than ever before, burning villages and beheading civilians in the Ancuabe, Chiure and Mecufi districts which had previously been untouched by the conflict since it began in October 2017. The latest bout of violence brings the total number of people displaced in Cabo Delgado to just under



In this image made from video, Rwandan police patrol a road in Palma, Cabo Delgado province, Mozambique, Sunday Aug. 15, 2021. In this image made from video, Rwandan police patrol a road in Palma, Cabo Delgado province, Mozambique, Sunday Aug. 15, 2021.

950,000, according to estimates by the International Organization for Migration. Despite the military support that Mozambique is receiving from troops sent by neighboring countries and Rwanda, the rebels are far from defeated. The foreign troops were deployed in Cabo Delgado a year ago, following the extremists' seizure of the strategic town of Palma in March, 2021.

"The prevalence of attacks a year after the beginning

of the foreign military intervention confirms what was already clear" that the government is wrong to say the insurrection has been caused by an external invasion with obscure interests, said Albino Forquilha, executive director of FOMICRES, an independent peacebuilding organization in Mozambique.

"The truth is that the conflict has internal origins due to bad governance and a poor relationship between

the state and the local population," Forquilha continued. "As long as the government ignores this fact, the attacks will not stop." Mozambique's security forces and the allied foreign troops have succeeded in driving insurgents from the main towns of Cabo Delgado into the forests, but this has effectively put rural civilians on the frontline. Since June, the insurgency has been characterized by relent-

less hit-and-run assaults on undefended villages, forcing the military and police off-balance as they rush to respond from one incident to the next.

"In the context of logistical limitations, whether due to the number of soldiers or military equipment, the increase in the number of attacks across dispersed areas will limit the pursuit of armed groups by government forces and their partners," said João Feijó, a researcher at the Mozambique-based Observatory of the Rural Environment. "It is a strategy that aims to increase the difficulties for government forces and their partners, and they need to devise an adequate response to this."

The 16-nation Southern African Development Community is due to decide in August whether to further extend its military intervention, which originally had a mandate for three months, beginning in July 2021.

The experience of the last year suggests that more than just military force is needed to bring the insurgency to heel, say analysts. □

Associated Press

Large section of smoldering Beirut port silos collapses

By **KAREEM CHEHAYEB**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Another significant section of the devastated Beirut Port silos collapsed on Tuesday morning in a cloud of dust. No injuries were reported the area had been long evacuated but the collapse was another painful reminder of the horrific August 2020 explosion. The collapse left the silos' southern part standing next to a pile of charred ruins. The northern block had already been slowly tipping over since the initial explosion two years ago but rapidly deteriorated after it caught fire over a month ago due to fermenting grains.

The 50 year old, 48 meter (157 feet) tall silos had with-

stood the force of the explosion on Aug. 4, 2020, effectively shielding the western part of Beirut from the blast that killed over 200 people, injured more than 6,000 and badly damaged entire neighborhoods.

Emmanuel Durand, a French civil engineer who volunteered for the government-commissioned team of experts, told The Associated Press that the speed of the tilt rapidly accelerated overnight on Monday, just hours before the collapse.

"There was a very sharp acceleration, which was expected," Durand explained. "When this happens, you know it's going to go."

The country's caretaker en-

vironment minister, Nasser Yassin, told Lebanese TV that the government will now look into how to ensure the southern block remains standing. He urged residents near the port to wear masks, and said experts would conduct air quality tests.

In April, the Lebanese government decided to demolish the silos, but suspended the decision following protests from families of the blast's victims and survivors. They contend that the silos may contain evidence useful for the judicial probe, and that it should stand as a memorial for the 2020 tragedy. In July, a fire broke out in the northern block of the silos due to the fermenting grains. Firefighters



This image from a video, shows smoke and dust rising from collapsing silos damaged during the August 2020 massive explosion in the port, in Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022.

Associated Press

and Lebanese Army soldiers were unable to put it out and it smoldered for over a month. Officials had warned that the silo could collapse, but feared risking the lives of firefighters and soldiers who struggled to get too close to put out the blaze or drop containers of water from helicopters. Survivors of the blast and

residents near the port have told the AP that watching the fire from their homes and offices was like reliving the trauma from the port blast, which started with a fire in a warehouse near the silos that contained hundreds of tons of explosive ammonium nitrate, improperly stored there for years. □

Huge fire at recycling center



ORANJESTAD – Yesterday morning, the sky in Aruba was consumed by black smoke coming from the south. It was recycling center Daltra's waste sector which caught fire.

Right away, police and fire department units were dispatched to the area. Police closed off the road to avoid people from coming close to the smoke.

Neighborhood police from Santa Cruz was also present, and the police's spokesperson. Personnel from the department of calamity were also present to familiarize themselves with the situation.

By 3p.m. the fire was still ongoing. Our reporter got in touch with Arugas, the gas company which is near the recycling center. They said that although the fire was still a safe distance



away, they had evacuated the premises. The fire department said that they were fighting the fire close to the gas plant, but emphasized that they had no control on the smoke yet.

Later, the Department of Public Works, DOW informed that they had sent big sea pumps, because the water pressure from the water system was not enough to control the fire. DOW also sent personnel to help, with additional diesel pump and hoses.

Everyone who lives and works in the area was ordered to evacuate.

Around 5:30p.m., minister of Justice and Social Affairs posted on his social media a message: "Today our entire community noticed a lot of black smoke in the area of Barcadera. Authori-



ties can confirm that it was the company Daltra N.V.

Right away, various unites of the Fire Department were mobilized to deal with it. It is an alarming situation that puts our firemen in danger. The Ministry of Justice and Social Affairs sends words of strength primarily to our Fire Department who is working with body and soul to overcome this problem, also to DOW and others who are supporting our Fire Department in order to end the fire as soon as possible."

At that time, smoke was still coming out of the area, and our reporters understood that while the fire had subsided, it was still not completely out. The fire department said that the fire was under control but they would continue monitoring the area through the night. □



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ORANJESTAD — One thing is for certain: Chef Scott Scheuerman and his team are famous for getting people hooked, just like the fish on your plate. You will get the taste of home fused with Caribbean while dining in elegance. Scheuerman will tell how Aqua Grill established its name since opening in 2002, and why it reaped accolades from such prestigious travel publications as Fodor's, who says, "This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers, who will find fresh fish galore..." Now is your chance to taste Aqua Grill's NEW seasonal menu and create a lifetime culinary memory.

'A Scheuer thing'

Secretly, we all know that the success of a restaurant begins in the kitchen. That is where the chef creates his magic and for Aqua Grill the culinary team has won an assortment of awards for their continuous delivery of 'haute-cuisine del mar.' Classic seafood is mingled with contemporary ideas resulting in surprising dishes that soon made the restaurant a must-dine, confirmed by established travel media specialists like Fodor's and Frommer's.

American-born Scheuerman, executive chef of Aqua Grill, is thrilled about 'his restaurant'. "We started out as a New England style seafood restaurant, patterned after Boston style. But we quickly blended into some Caribbean, local flair... if you will. We do still offer the traditional New England dishes like whole Maine lobster, northern seafood plates like the salmon, tuna and

**Aqua Grill restaurant:
 The taste of New England with
 Caribbean flair**



swordfish. We buy also from the local fisherman to offer Caribbean dishes like snapper and grouper which are number one sellers in our restaurant being the most prevalent local fishes. Catches like wahoo, mahi mahi and brasil are welcome too, anything that comes out of the water we embrace."

Fresh import from Boston

Aqua Grill flies in their own shipments on a weekly basis mostly from Boston because the price quality balance is the best, says the chef. "We are unique in this. Number one priority is buying fresh, we mean not frozen. Our original concept is New England seafood and we stick to that concept. They have a wonderful assortment of oysters and lobsters as well." Aqua Grill also offers international fusion type of menu items; actually all you wish for is there. A very balanced menu awaits you. "And we have options for meat lovers and vegetarians/vegans too. We, however, do not mix it up too much because we believe we do not want to lose our identity as a seafood restaurant," Scheuerman adds.

Sublime menu

Now is the time to indulge in Aqua Grill's dinner experience. The established restaurant offers a sensational menu. We present to you a Raw Bar with among

others fresh Oysters on the half Shell, Littleneck Clams, Peruvian Ceviche and Lobster Salad. Steamed Dumplings and Prawns or Steamed Mussels seduce you from the open view kitchen.

After that continue your gastronomic trip to heaven with the house specialties like Main Lobster, steamed or broiled or maybe you crave for the best Alaska King Crab Legs you have ever tasted?

You haven't reached your destination yet because there are more main course options to blow you away: Seared Chilean Sea Bass, Cioppino or Blackened Tuba are just some to mention.

Take a pick out of Aqua Grill's delicious desserts to finally conclude yes, this beats it all. We will be back for more.

Aqua Grill

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Dog Control Center with microchipping pilot project



Oranjestad – Recently, the Dog Control Center started its microchipping pilot project. The aim is to increase the adoption rate in Aruba.

The Dog Control Center has its adoption requirements for the owner. One of these requirements is to chip and sterilize the adopted pet and bring the proof hereof within two months. This measure is to

ensure that the owners are accountable for their pets. By sterilizing and microchipping, one will help control the dog and cat population. Currently, the pilot project focus is on microchipping. Microchipping is for the dogs adopted through the Dog Control Center at the availability and evaluation of the government veterinary. The pilot project also serves as

the test phase of the digital registration system that is in the process of being officially launched.

The project is still in its planning phase. The Dog Control Center is still meeting with stakeholders, veterinarians, and Ngo's. The government aims to launch a national information campaign in the upcoming months. □

insini

by Urvin Croes

Welcome at our table

Step inside our meticulously designed Chef's Table restaurant, located on scenic Eagle Beach, for a 12-course menu prepared in front of your very own eyes.

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Episode CIVXII - 168

Etnia Nativa through Island Insight facilitates cultural awareness, education and safeguards Aruba's heritage by elevating each reader into an island keeper state of mind. Be encouraged to discover in every episode the true native effect, live it, discover more reasons to love Aruba behind our beaches and liven up your stay in an incredibly wonderful way.

Our island is a tiny tourist destination with a fragile ecosystem, covering thousands of years of history. Here is where Etnia Nativa's main objective comes to mind through educating readers over Aruba's heritage. We believe when you love and value what you have, ones greatest desire becomes to protect it.

During this episode we want to explain you about the problems caused by the stacking up of stones, a practice that you have probably seen during one of your tours around the island or if you walk along the north coast you will see stones stacked forming curious structures, even though It is a tradition that for many cultures, stone piling had and have a very special meaning in the form of a religious to a representation of inner balance. The idea is that stones can act as a medium through which these concepts are expressed. Stones were considered transcendental symbols of perennality since the primitive era, invariability, immobility, unity, energy and strength; for these reasons they have also been adored for the sacredness they contained due to their shape, color, origin or size; granting them both magical and spiritual significance.

But the reality is that this “banal fashion” copied or imported from past cultures resulted in an extremely aggressive practice with a harmful impact on biodiversity and favoring soil erosion. They are small constructions, originally known by the name of “apacheta”, a word that comes from the native American languages Quechua and Aymara and means to stack. The aforementioned cultures based the stacking of stones as an offering in honor of the deities of the place.

Throughout our indigenous America “the apachetas” have been considered monuments of sacred value. In Peru, these “sacred monuments” were built at different points along the road, their source being an ancient



Inca custom. This old custom that over time turned “those stacked stones” into marks, like milestones, that marked the roads. That is why a custom has come down to the present day, which is that precisely when a hiker/traveler arrives at these points, they ask and thank the Pachamama (Mother Earth) and the Apus (spirits of the mountains) for their safe journey. It was believed that leaving a stone as an indication, protected the traveler who passed through the place, which was offered together with the coca leaf, tobacco or fermented drinks. The vast majority of “las apachetas” appear solitary and isolated and it is believed that removing the stones from the apacheta is desecration and equivalent to sacrilege.

The unfortunate reality for our island is that the piling up of stones damages the habitat of animal and plant species that use these stones as shelter or depend on them and the microclimatic conditions associated with them.

Also in certain areas where these characteristic structures have proliferated in recent years by the engouragment of untrained tour guides, the growth of certain plants is affected since their roots, which are normally protected by rocks, are exposed.

If you are the next person to see some “apalacheta” please, get involved in the conservation of our fragile environment and carefully try to put them in places on the ground where there is no vegetation so as not to generate new impacts on the ecosystem.

In addition to discourage this practise, it will prevent the piling up of new “apachetas”. The construction of these structures, in addition to being a direct attack on the environment, is an attack on the natural landscape. Help us take care of Aruba don not liter and do not pile up stones. Just give a prayer for our island if you are religouse or wish to set a spiritual statement!☐



If you love Aruba interested in its origins and its cultural heritage, we invite you to be part of an exclusive visit at Etnia Nativa -a visit off the tourist grid- private residential house sharing collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facility itself is the result of the transforming and recycling of materials. Meet Anthony Croes, our columnist at his museum/ home. The only and authentic native Aruban cultural encounter! Live the experience. R.S.V.P. Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@gmail.com

Aruba's youth got talent with Rocking Youth Band

There are so many musical groups nowadays, which can be found on the internet, making it impossible to know how many groups are born each day. In Aruba, recently a youth musical group was created at a school with the goal of entertaining and to keep growing in music.

Rocking Youth Band is a group formed by 9 youngsters aged between 13 and 15 years. Last weekend, they had their first performance outside their school, which was where their band was created a year ago. Normally they performed at different school events, and this took place in a known setting.

In the beginning they were directed by their teacher Petra Alben, but Alben moved to the Netherlands, leaving behind the plea to not waste their talent and to present the group with various instruments like piano, bass, guitar, drum and ukulele, among others.

This time our reporter did a special interview with Tony Parejo, a professional musician who gives music lessons. He represents this youth musical band and is also the father of two of the band members. He says that their first performance for the general public last Saturday was a complete success, as the people present thoroughly enjoyed it.

The members received music lessons at the school, where some of them are still students, and each re-



ceived private lessons for the instruments in which they specialized. Rocking Youth Band consists of Paula Spinosi, 14, Jenna Croes, 15 – both dedicated to playing ukulele; Vida Maria, 13 who is in charge of violin and

vocals; Isabella Manrique, 14, who sings; Ethan and Ian Parejo, 14, specialized in drum, percussion, violin and guitar; Cynthia Rafael, 14, dedicated to bass guitar; Lukas Teklenborg, 15, with cajon and percussion; and Hugo Vroegop, 13,

who plays the piano.

These 9 teens, according to Parejo, have a special difference from other musical groups, because their performance varies. They not only play rock, pop or ballads, but they also mix ca-

jon with ukulele. There are also three voices singing, and one of them is opera. Currently, Parejo said that they are busy with mixing a modern concept with opera, a personal production project.

Currently, the band does covers of various artists, but they also already have their own songs and their own production in that musical area. "They are very excited to do that, but they're barely one year in, combining their studies with music lessons and the band", Parejo said.

As young teens, each of them has their school responsibilities, their aspirations and other hobbies, like windsurfing or becoming a plane pilot. They have the purpose of doing a production in one year's time, which is the school year which has just started. During this time they want to produce their own songs with producers and arrangers, in a way that makes everyone happy with the results, without losing their focus on school.

Parejo also said that they have decided to change the band's name because they had the name of the school where they study, which is 'Schakel Band'; but because some of them have changed schools, they decided to change to 'Yessified Chicken Nugget' – Parejo explained that not all of them were in agreement with that name, and this is why they changed the name again, to 'Rocking Youth Band'.

Meanwhile they continue training their new songs. Parejo mentioned that they are organizing an activity for the month of September, but he could not share any details yet.

As they are a relatively new musical group, they don't have social media as a group yet, but their representative, Parejo, assured that soon the community will hear more of them and come to know their talent. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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 34 Zodiac animal
 35 Distant
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Yesterday's answer

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8-24

A X Y D L B A A X R
 is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-24

CRYPTOQUOTE

D I Z V F L B N Q F M R . D W Z D G V V I F F

U F O Z T R F V I F E ' M F O I F Z W F M

V I Z G P N C F B R Z G C V I F E C N G ' V

P N X F . — S E N M S D Z N ' H F F L F

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE DON'T MAKE MISTAKES, JUST HAPPY LITTLE ACCIDENTS. — BOB ROSS

As Amazon grows, so does its eye on consumers

By HALELUYA HADERO
 AP Business Writer

From what you buy online, to how you remember tasks, to when you monitor your doorstep, Amazon is seemingly everywhere.

And it appears the company doesn't want to halt its reach anytime soon. In recent weeks, Amazon has said it will spend billions of dollars in two gigantic acquisitions that, if approved, will broaden its ever-growing presence in the lives of consumers.

This time, the company is targeting two areas: health care, through its \$3.9 billion buyout of the primary care company One Medical, and the "smart home," where it plans to expand its already mighty presence through a \$1.7 billion merger with iRobot, the maker of the popular robotic Roomba vacuum.

Perhaps unsurprisingly for a company known for its vast collection of consumer information, both mergers have heightened enduring privacy concerns about how Amazon gathers data and what it does with it. The latest line of Roombas, for example, employ sensors that map and remember a home's floor plan.

"It's acquiring this vast set of data that Roomba collects about people's homes," said Ron Knox, an Amazon critic who works for the anti-monopoly group Institute for Local Self-Reliance. "Its obvious intent, through all the other products that it sells to consumers, is to be in your home. (And) along with the privacy issues come the antitrust issues, because it's buying market share." Amazon's reach goes well beyond that. Some estimates show the retail giant controls roughly 38% of the U.S. e-commerce market, allowing it to gather granular data about the shopping preferences of millions of Americans and more worldwide. Meanwhile, its Echo devices, which house the voice assistant Alexa, have dominated the U.S. smart



In this Friday, June 28, 2019, image made from video, a Ring doorbell camera is shown at a home in Coon Rapids, Minn.

Associated Press

speaker market, accounting for roughly 70% of sales, according to estimates by Consumer Intelligence Research Partners.

Ring, which Amazon purchased in 2018 for \$1 billion, monitors doorsteps and helps police track down crime even when users might not be aware. And at select Amazon stores and Whole Foods, the company is testing a palm-scanning technology that allows customers to pay for items by storing biometric data in the cloud, sparking concerns about risks of a data breach, which Amazon has attempted to assuage. "We treat your palm signature just like other highly sensitive personal data and keep it safe using best-in-class technical and physical security controls," the company said on a website that provides information about the technology. Even consumers who actively avoid Amazon are still likely to have little say about how their employers power their computer networks, which Amazon along with Google has long dominated through its cloud-computing service AWS. "It's hard to think of another organization that has as many touch points as Amazon does to an individual," said Ian Greenblatt, who heads up tech research at the consumer research and data analytics firm J.D. Power. "It's almost overwhelming, and it's hard to put a finger on it." And Amazon like any com-

pany aims to grow. In the past few years, the company has purchased the Wi-Fi startup Eero and partnered with the construction company Lennar to offer tech-powered houses. With iRobot, it would gain one more building block for the ultimate smart home — and, of course, more data. Customers can opt out of having iRobot devices store a layout of their homes, according to the vacuum maker. But data privacy advocates worry the merger is another way Amazon could suck up information to integrate into its other devices or use to target consumers with ads. In a statement, Amazon spokesperson Lisa Levandowski denied that's what the company wants to do. "We do not use home maps for targeted advertising and have no plans to do so," Levandowski said. Whether that will relieve concerns is another matter, especially in light of research about Amazon's other devices. Earlier this year, a group of university researchers released a report that found voice data from Amazon's Echo devices are used to target ads to consumers something the company had denied in the past. Umar Iqbal, a postdoc at the University of Washington who led the research, said he and his colleagues found Echo devices running third-party Skills, which are like apps for Alexa, that communicate with advertisers. □

U. Michigan study to help those with autism improve driving



Tate Ellwood-Mielewski test drives on a simulator at the University of Michigan, Friday, April 29, 2022, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Associated Press

By **MIKE HOUSEHOLDER**
Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — University of Michigan researchers are studying how well people with autism spectrum disorder can detect road hazards, and plan to assist the young motorists in sharpening their driving skills.

The upcoming effort will be the second phase of a project funded by Ford Motor Co. that teams the Ann Arbor university with a local driving school. During phase one of the study, researchers found that students with autism spectrum disorder detected fewer hazards than control participants during simulated drives. But, according to lead researcher Elise Hodges, some extra work behind the wheel did the trick.

"Those folks that underwent training improved in two-thirds of hazards in the simulated drive," said Hodges, a clinical associate professor in the University of Michigan's neuropsychology program.

Tate Ellwood-Mielewski, who was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder at age 3, is among those who plan to get back in the driver's seat for phase two of the study. □

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Review: Love, hope and ‘Three Thousand Years of Longing’

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

There is not a cynical molecule in the makeup of George Miller’s “Three Thousand Years of Longing,” a patient and occasionally dazzling fantasy about love, myth, hope, companionship and perhaps, most of all, about storytelling. Idris Elba and Tilda Swinton, wrapped in plush white bathrobes, will reiterate the storytelling point over and over again during a vulnerable, sprawling conversation in a stately Istanbul hotel suite that’s nice enough to make one consider a career in academia.

Though the setting and wardrobe might feel familiar, this story is anything but. Only one of the parties, Swinton’s Alithea Binnie, is human. Elba is an immortal djinn, the fancy term for the anglicized “genie,” whom Alithea has stumbled upon in a small, striped glass bottle in an unsorted bin of an Istanbul antique store.

In most stories, the ability to suddenly get your heart’s desire with a wish comes as good news, at least at first. But Alithea isn’t one who has a list of wants. Not only is she a proud, contented single and child-



This image released by Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures shows Tilda Swinton, right, and Idris Elba in “Three Thousand Years of Longing.”

free woman she’s also a “narratologist” who is so well-versed in mythology that she knows all the ways in which wish-making and granting can go wrong. And yet by not fulfilling her duty to make three wishes, she also is condemning the djinn to nonexistence. He tries to convince her otherwise, by telling fantastical stories from his past, spanning some three thousand years, and all the times he was sent back to the bottle for caring too much about the wisher, from Sheba (Aamito Lagum), to a servant who longs for a prince, Gulten (Ece Yüksel),

and finally child bride of an old merchant who desires knowledge, Zefir (Burcu Gölgedar).

These stories are enchanting, brutal, sensual, grotesque and often involve power struggles and irrational decisions made for love.

Miller gets to play in a wide array of cultures as the djinn skips through time, all with their own shimmering palettes and fairy tale hyperrealism. It’s a nice reminder that Miller is a man who can tackle both “Mad Max: Fury Road” and “Babe: Pig in the City.”

At times, you may grow

impatient wondering what it’s all building towards and if you even care, as Alithea doubles down on her stance that she’d rather not make any wishes at all. But she, and the audience, are in for a surprise. It’s the kind of moment that doesn’t make a lot of emotional sense on paper, but that’s why we go to the movies, isn’t it? Swinton and Miller make it work.

Still for all its romanticism, the film may also sit upon an uneasy foundation: The inglorious trope of the “magical, mystical Negro.” The term, was popularized by Spike Lee, who in a lec-

ture to Yale students over 20 years ago identified a trend exemplified in films like “The Legend of Bagger Vance” and “The Green Mile” in which the powers belonging to Black characters, often exoticized, seem to only be used to benefit white characters. No matter how the various films try to justify it, the relationship, as Matt Zoller Seitz later wrote in Salon, “is that of a master and servant.”

You don’t get a more literal depiction of master and servant than that of genie and the person who released them, and here, the fact is that the djinn is Black and the human is white. But “Three Thousand Years of Longing” does not seem like the kind of movie that is internationally embracing this idea.

Or perhaps the phrase, like the Bechdel Test, was never supposed to be a literal line of demarcation between movies that are acceptable and movies that are not, but a way of talking about representation and, yes, storytelling. Maybe, like Swinton herself once said when faced with criticisms around the race of another fictional character, it can all be true. □

Associated Press

Serena Williams tells Meghan of baby’s injury before match

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Serena Williams and Meghan recount challenges they’ve experienced as working mothers on the Duchess of Sussex’s first podcast, including stories of having to work soon after scary incidents involving their children.

Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam champion who said recently “the countdown has begun” to her retirement, recounted on Meghan’s “Archetypes” Spotify podcast Tuesday that she played a match at the 2018 French Open after a nearly sleepless night after her daughter, Olympia, broke her wrist.

“I somehow managed to win, but I was so emotionally spent and just like so emotionally drained that it

was, it was crazy. And, you know, and then like every night after that, I just was with her the whole time and was like you’re going to

be with me,” said Williams, who has indicated that her final tournament will be the U.S. Open, which starts in New York next week.



Serena Williams appears at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, Calif., on March 27, 2022, left, and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, appears at a service of thanksgiving for the reign of Queen Elizabeth II in London on June 3, 2022.

Associated Press

The tennis great and Meghan, who are friends, spoke at length on Tuesday’s episode about the challenges of balancing high profile careers in the public eye and motherhood.

“So when you went and played that match the next morning, no one knew what your night had been like the night before. They forgot that human piece of it,” Meghan said about Williams’ French Open experience.

Meghan recounted an incident during a tour of South Africa with her husband, Prince Harry, and their son, Archie, in which a fire broke out in her son’s room and the pair had to leave their baby to continue their official duties. Archie was sup-

posed to be napping in the room at the time, but his nanny had taken him out to get a bite to eat. The incident left everyone shaken, Meghan said.

She said she wanted to spend time with her son, but she and Harry had to go and do another official engagement.

“The focus ends up being on how it looks instead of how it feels,” Meghan said. “And part of the humanizing and the breaking through of these labels and these archetypes and these boxes that we’re put into is having some understanding on the human moments behind the scenes that people might not have any awareness of and to give each other a break. □

Durant, Nets plan to move forward together instead of trade

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kevin Durant and the Brooklyn Nets are staying together.

A trade request that jolted the franchise and dominated NBA headlines has been removed. The Nets will return next season with their All-Star forward in uniform — and with their championship hopes intact.

The Nets said Tuesday that the team's leadership met a day earlier with Durant and business partner Rich Kleiman in Los Angeles and "agreed to move forward with our partnership," general manager Sean Marks said in a statement.

Marks attended the meeting along with coach Steve Nash and owners Joe and Clara Wu Tsai.

"We are focusing on basketball, with one collective goal in mind: build a lasting franchise to bring a championship to Brooklyn," Marks added.

That is certainly more likely by keeping Durant, who remains one of the best scorers in the NBA. He is set to begin a four-year extension he signed last summer, and the possibility of him being traded had been the biggest story in the NBA this summer.

It's unknown exactly why he sought a trade, which



Brooklyn Nets' Kevin Durant smiles during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers at the Barclays Center, Sunday, Apr. 10, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

came at the end of a turbulent year in Brooklyn. A championship favorite before last season began, the Nets barely made the playoffs and then were bounced by Boston in four games in the first round.

The Nets then refused to give a contract extension to Kyrie Irving, Durant's close friend, forcing him to pick up his option for next season, the final year of his deal.

The uncertainty around Durant's future in Brooklyn likely contributed to the Nets being left off the five-game Christmas lineup and being scheduled to appear only eight times on ABC and ESPN.

But with Durant, the Nets can still be one of the best teams in the Eastern Conference. He averaged a franchise-record 29.9 points last season, and the Nets were bidding for the top

spot in the East before he suffered a knee injury that sidelined him for 21 games. With Durant, Irving and Ben Simmons, who is expected to return after not playing for the Nets last season following his trade from Philadelphia, the Nets will have a top trio. Joe Harris also will be back after the two-time NBA leader in 3-point percentage was limited to just 14 games because of left ankle surgery.

It would have been hard for Durant to find many better situations, and the Nets likely had little interest in trying to land him one. Few teams could have offered the type of trade package the Nets would have sought and still been able to remain a championship contender.

The Nets believed they had built one in the 2020-21 season after acquiring James Harden to play with Durant and Irving. But they dealt with injuries throughout that season and were eliminated by eventual champion Milwaukee in seven games in the Eastern Conference semifinals, despite Durant scoring 48 points in the final game, the most ever in a Game 7.

Durant was brilliant again last season but couldn't save a season that was marred by Irving missing most of Brooklyn's home games because he refused to get vaccinated against the coronavirus. Harden then asked to be traded and was swapped in the deal for Simmons in February. All of that likely frustrated Durant, who left Golden State in 2019 after two championships in three seasons to come with Irving to Brooklyn.

And now, that's where he'll stay. □

Primoz Roglic takes the lead as Vuelta returns to Spain

LAGUARDIA, Spain (AP)

— The Spanish Vuelta was back in Spain. And defending champion Primoz Roglic was back in the lead. Roglic showed he is in great form and in position to retain his Vuelta title with a dominant win in the fourth stage on Tuesday as the Grand Tour race returned to Spanish territory after three opening stages in the Netherlands.

Trying to win an unprecedented fourth straight Vuelta title, Roglic took the leader's red jersey after launching his attack in the final meters of the uphill climb into Laguardia in the

Basque Country.

The Jumbo-Visma rider opened a 13-second gap in the general classification to American teammate Sepp Kuss. Roglic was 26 seconds in front of Ethan Hayter of Ineos Grenadiers. "It's really just the beginning of La Vuelta but it's always better to be 10 seconds ahead rather than behind," Roglic said. "It was already a hard pace the whole day, with a super fast and hard stage. The finale was an opportunity to fight for the stage win. I had the legs so I gave it a go."

The Slovenian crossed the

line in front of Mads Pedersen of Trek-Segafredo and Movistar's Enric Mas. It was the third-straight second-place finish for Pedersen, who was beaten by Sam Bennett in the second and third stages.

Roglic enjoyed his 10th stage win overall at the Vuelta. His preparations for this edition were not ideal — because of injuries sustained in a fall at the Tour de France — and his participation confirmed only a few days before the race started.

Ineos rider Richard Carapaz was 33 seconds off the lead, and Simon Yates of



Slovenian rider Primoz Roglic of Jumbo-Visma team, sprints at the finish line of the 4th stage of the Vuelta cycling race between Vitoria-Gasteiz and Laguardia, in Spain, Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022.

Associated Press

Bikeexchange-Jayco fell 51 seconds back overall.

The first three stages had taken place in the Netherlands for the first time after plans to start there in 2020

were hindered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Riders will face five mountain passes in Wednesday's fifth stage finishing in Bilbao. □

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PGA Tour stars unified, pushing ideas similar to LIV

By **DOUG FERGUSON** AP
Golf Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Greg Norman braced for another fight with the PGA Tour and was equipped with what he often referred to as the tour's "playbook" from the first time he tried to start a rival league.

This version might have a similar ending.

Norman's first attempt to assemble an exclusive field to play for big money around the world never got off the ground. The PGA Tour wielded its political influence, Arnold Palmer stood



Tiger Woods of the US on the 11th hole during the first round of the British Open golf championship on the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, Thursday July 14, 2022.

Associated Press

behind the heritage of the tour and that was that.

And then the PGA Tour stole his idea.

What emerged were the World Golf Championships, the richest events (back when a \$5 million purse meant something) with no cut and a limited field. Former PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem publicly thanked Norman for his "determination and suggestions of 1994" when the first WGC was played.

In that respect, this is starting to feel like a repeat.

Reports over the weekend — the most thorough from No Laying Up, which has engaged top players on its podcast for years — pointed to a plan to create up to 15 tournaments offering some of the richest purses for a limited field of elite players. Those were the most pertinent details that emerged from a players-only meeting last week. Norman must feel as though he has seen all this before. But this was less about trying to quash Saudi-funded LIV Golf and more about taking the PGA Tour in a modern direction that emphasizes its biggest names. And what makes this different from 1994 is how the movement unfolded.

No Laying Up reported 23 players in attendance at the invitation-only meeting. That included — it starts with, really — Tiger Woods, who flew to Delaware from Florida for the meeting.

"We need to get the top guys together more often than we do," Rory McIlroy

said the next morning, the closest any player came to a public revelation. "I'm talking about all in the same tournaments, all in the same weeks."

For now, the plan is somewhere between a vision and reality. The players have been in touch with Commissioner Jay Monahan, and he could provide a better sense of where it all stands when he speaks Wednesday ahead of the Tour Championship.

But the value of that meeting went far deeper than details. By all accounts, the players left inspired, unified and unusually quiet. Xander Schauffele smiled when he referred to the silence as a "code," which is not to suggest he was joking. Said one player, speaking on condition of anonymity to honor such a code, "When was the last time all the top players got together in the same room? That has never happened before." It spoke to the ownership the players have taken of their tour, and their determination to stave off the greatest threat professional golf has faced.

Hideki Matsuyama and Sungjae Im might have required translation, though they should have been included. Matsuyama was said to be curious why he wasn't invited. Two people who know of his plans say the Japanese star is not going anywhere. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because Matsuyama has not said anything publicly about his plans. □

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